

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:IMSILINS:SAM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 082723

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, CSCE, SHUM, CVIS, SALT, MBFR, OVIP (PACOSTE,
CORNEL), UR, RO

SUBJECT:ROMANIAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER'S MEETING WITH
ARMITAGE, APRIL 8

1. SUMMARY: ROMANIAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER CORNEL
PACOSTE ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR NICOLAE, MET WITH
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE FOR ABOUT ONE HOUR
APRIL 8. ARMITAGE STRESSED CONGRESSIONAL INTENT THAT US
EARTHQUAKE AID TO ROMANIA HAVE PRIMARILY HUMANITARIAN
SCOPE, DESCRIBED CURRENT STATUS OF US-USSR RELATIONS IN
WAKE OF NEGATIVE SOVIET REACTION ON SALT PROPOSALS, AND
ASKED PACOSTE TO PROD ROMANIAN BUREAUCRACY INTO SPEEDIER
ACTION ON EMIGRATION AND MARRIAGE CASES, POINTING OUT THAT
THIS MIGHT BE TIME TO SOLVE EVEN THE DIFFICULT ONES.
PACOSTE SAID CEAUSESCU MIGHT HAVE NEW PROPOSALS SOON ON
MBFR. HE GAVE US LITTLE REASON FOR OPTIMISM ON QUICK SOL-
UTION OF "DIFFICULT" MARRIAGE/EMIGRATION CASES. END
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SUMMARY.

2. AFTER USUAL AMENITIES, ARMITAGE DESCRIBED QUICK CON-
GRESSIONAL ACTION IN AUTHORIZING \$20 MILLION IN EARTHQUAKE
RELIEF AID FOR ROMANIA, POINTING OUT THAT THIS ACTION RE-
FLECTS WIDESPREAD SYMPATHY FOR ROMANIA AND PARTICULAR RE-
GARD FOR ROMANIA'S INDEPENDENT STANCE AND GOOD RELATIONS

WITH US. THE NEXT STEP WILL BE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS; WE DO NOT EXPECT PROBLEMS, BUT IT MAY TAKE SOME TIME IN VIEW OF THE EASTER RECESS. BECAUSE SOME FUNDS ARE ALREADY AVAILABLE, THE PLANNING PROCESS CAN BEGIN EVEN BEFORE AN APPROPRIATION IS PASSED. THE US IS CONSIDERING SENDING SOME TEAMS TO ROMANIA FOR MORE DETAILED TALKS WITH GOR ON HOW ASSISTANCE MONEY SHOULD BE USED. HOWEVER, CLEAR INTENT OF CONGRESS IS THAT FUNDS BE USED FOR PROJECTS WITH PRIMARILY HUMANITARIAN SCOPE, SUCH AS REHABILITATING DAMAGED HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL FACILITIES AND SIMILAR PROJECTS DESIGNED TO SERVE NEEDS OF ROMANIAN POPULATION.

3. PACOSTE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD INTENDED SCOPE OF AID IS HUMANITARIAN. IN THIS CONTEXT, HE POINTED TO THE CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE TO HOUSING, PARTICULARLY IN BUCHAREST, AND SAID ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT WOULD BE VERY IMPORTANT. ARMITAGE MENTIONED THAT TEAMS WE ARE PLANNING TO SEND TO ROMANIA INCLUDE STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS. ACTUAL USE OF THE \$20 MILLION AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS IS SOMETHING WE CAN DISCUSS FURTHER WITH THE GOR.

4. ARMITAGE THEN BRIEFED PACOSTE ON THE RESULTS OF SECRETARY VANCE'S MOSCOW TRIP, STRESSING THAT WE ARE NOT DISCOURAGED BY THE QUICK NEGATIVE SOVIET REACTION TO OUR PROPOSALS ON SALT, BUT BELIEVE SOVIETS ARE WILLING TO CONTINUE THE DISCUSSION. FURTHERMORE, US/USSR RELATIONSHIPS ARE

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TIONS ARE NOT "FROZEN" AS A RESULT OF THE SOVIET REACTION AND EVEN WHILE SECRETARY VANCE WAS IN MOSCOW PROCEEDED WITH THE SIGNING OF SOME LONG-DISCUSSED AGREEMENTS IN MARITIME AREA AND ON CONSTRUCTION OF CHANCERY COMPLEXES. ARMITAGE NOTED THAT THE "COMPREHENSIVE" US SALT PROPOSAL, WHICH PRESIDENT CARTER PREFERS, WOULD APPEAR TO BE ALONG LINES SATISFACTORY TO PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU, WHO HAS OFTEN STATED THAT ROMANIA WOULD LIKE TO SEE ACTUAL REDUCTIONS IN NUCLEAR ARMS. THE PROPOSALS ARE DESIGNED TO MAINTAIN ESSENTIAL EQUIVALENCE IN STRATEGIC POSTURE, HENCE ARE REASONABLE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS.

5. PACOSTE SAID HE WAS GRATEFUL FOR THIS REPORT AND PLEASED THAT OUR PREFERRED PROPOSAL WAS ALONG THE LINES OF PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU'S PREFERENCE. ROMANIA ALSO SUPPORTS EQUILIBRIUM. THE QUESTION IS, AT WHAT LEVEL? PERHAPS THE SOVIETS ARE AFRAID THE LIMITS ARE TOO LOW.

6. ARMITAGE ADDED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER IS VERY

SERIOUS ABOUT ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR ARMS AS A REAL GOAL.
ONE PROBLEM IS THAT CERTAIN DEFENSE AGREEMENTS ARE

BASED ON THE AVAILABILITY OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

7. TURNING TO MBFR, PACOSTE COMMENTED THAT ROMANIA FAVORS
REDUCTION OF CONVENTIONAL MILITARY FORCES. ARMITAGE RE-
PLIED THAT THIS GOAL WAS ONLY TOUCHED ON IN MOSCOW.
MBFR IS MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATION REQUIRING CLOSE ALLIED
CONSULTATIONS, NOT A STRICTLY BILATERAL AFFAIR. PACOSTE
COMMENTED WITH A SMILE THAT ROMANIA, AS AN ALLY OF THE
USSR, WOULD CERTAINLY AGREE TO REDUCTIONS. HE ADDED THAT
CEAUSESCU ALSO ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO MBFR. "WE
MAY HAVE SOME NEW PROPOSALS SHORTLY -- HOPEFULLY REALIS-
TIC ONES."

8. ARMITAGE THEN TURNED TO EMIGRATION/MARRIAGE CASES,
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NOTING THAT HE IS OFTEN ASKED BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ABOUT
EXCESSIVE DELAYS WHICH CHARACTERIZE SUCH CASES. PROMPT-
ER ROMANIAN ACTION WOULD BE HELPFUL.

9. PACOSTE RESPONDED WITH WELL KNOWN ROMANIAN COUNTER-
ARGUMENTS, SAYING THAT GOR MUST CAREFULLY STUDY EACH MAR-
RIAGE REQUEST BECAUSE OF FREQUENCY WITH WHICH WIVES ARE
ABANDONED OR MISTREATED ONCE THEY LEAVE HOMELAND. HE
SAID PROBLEM WAS ESPECIALLY COMMON WITH FRG. WHEN ARMI-
TAGE NOTED THAT PACOSTE HIMSELF SAID THIS PROBLEM WAS NOT
PARTICULARLY RELEVANT TO US, AMBASSADOR NICOLAE EXPOUNDED
AT LENGTH ON SLIGHTLY BIZARRE CASE OF MIRELA STOIANESCU
(PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN TO US), WHO ALLEGEDLY WAS TURNED OVER
ON ARRIVAL AT US AIRPORT BY HER AMCIT HUSBAND SINGH
TO A ROMANIAN ILLEGAL EMIGRANT "FOR FURTHER INVES-
TIGATION" BEFORE SINGH WOULD BE WILLING TO TAKE HER IN.
PACOSTE ALSO USED "BRAIN DRAIN" ARGUMENT AND ACKNOWLEDGED
THAT GOR IS CONDUCTING INTENSE CAMPAIGN TO DISCOURAGE
EMIGRATION ON PREMISE THAT "THERE IS NO HEAVEN ANYWHERE."

10. ARMITAGE SUGGESTED THAT NEVERTHELESS THE PROCESS
COULD BE SPEEDED UP, AND PERHAPS NOW, WHEN THE US
PRESS IS NOT FOCUSING SO MUCH ON INDIVIDUAL CASES, MIGHT
BE THE TIME TO SOLVE EVEN THE MOST DIFFICULT ONES.
PACOSTE RETORTED THAT ONE OR TWO CASES ARE PRACTICALLY
IMPOSSIBLE TO SOLVE. ARMITAGE NOTED THAT THE PASSAGE
OF TIME CAN RENDER THINGS POSSIBLE. PACOSTE CLAIMED THE
EXCEPTIONS STRENGTHEN THE RULE, TO WHICH ARMITAGE REPLIED
THAT WE WILL KEEP WORKING ON THE EXCEPTIONS.

11. MEETING ENDED WITH BRIEF DISCUSSION OF EXCHANGES OF

VISITS, IN WHICH ROMANIANS MADE POINT THAT US "OWES" VISITS TO ROMANIA AND ARMITAGE NOTED THAT FIRST YEAR OF ADMINISTRATION IS DIFFICULT TIME TO SCHEDULE THEM.
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